theoretically equalitarian, so it would inevitably become less snobbish. The reverse has been the case. Social position and wealth have come to have an almost mystical significance; to be observed with the same superstitious reverence as religious relics, and to focus the same curiosity as haunted houses or murderers. To catch a glimpse of a Society wedding, crowds wait patiently, undeterred by rain or blustering wind, their short reward coming when they see the bride and bridegroom pass by, red carpet underfoot. That is their ecstasy, vision ineffable—how beautiful they are, the lovely ones!

Newspapers have abundantly catered for the demand thus set up for information about the high-born and the wealthy; the profession of gossip-writer has become a lucrative and honourable one, which even peers have not disdained to embrace. Day by day, and particularly on Sundays, intimate accounts of the doings, habits and apparel of the great, have been provided. Nor have the great been backward in voluntarily furnishing information about themselves. Not bashful, they; evincing little desire to hide their light under a bushel, but rather, as Lord Castlerosse has explained, sometimes embarrassingly eager to prove themselves worth a paragraph.

Thackeray, in *The Book of Snobs,* defined snobbishness as mean admiration for mean things, though admitting that he himself was not above feeling gratified when, arm in arm with a duke, he met a fellow-commoner. The attributes of those who have power are admired and imitated because it is hoped that if the attributes are cultivated, the power will follow; a

squirrel, if it could, would sport a mane and cultivate a roar in the hope of thereby becoming lionly. After a proletarian revolution, the endeavour is to speak like a bricklayer rather than like an Etonian, and ancestral origins are eagerly scrutinised for evidence of humble stock. If the B.B.C ever begins to drop h's, prepare for trouble. Even the more zealous Fabians were occasionally ungrammatical in anticipation of better days; and Balliol's products have indicated by corduroy trousers and bast shoes their sense of the way the wind was blowing. Similar instances of snobbishness